

III.B.2.N.d.15. ELAEAGNUS COMMUTATA TEMPORARILY FLOODED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

American Silverberry Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance

ELAEAGNUS COMMUTATA SHRUBLAND

American Silverberry Shrubland

ELEMENT CONCEPT

GLOBAL SUMMARY: Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

USFWS Wetland System: Upland

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Environment: This shrubland is unusual and is known from only one site with a steep, rapidly drained slope (37%) and northwestern, western, and southeastern aspects because it wraps around the head of a ridge at midslope. This slope contains a band of outcropping volcanic material (welded tuff), volcanic talus, and small pieces of shale surrounded by Pikes Peak granite bedrock above and granite alluvium in the lower, adjacent drainage.

Global Environment: Not applicable.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Vegetation: *Elaeagnus commutata* shrubs are of relatively short stature, between 1 and 2 m tall, and sparse, providing approximately 20% vegetative cover. The silverberry association lies between *Pinus ponderosa* / *Cercocarpus montanus* Woodland (CEGL000851) upslope and *Festuca arizonica* - *Muhlenbergia montana* Herbaceous Vegetation (CEGL001606) that occupies the alluvial deposits of the adjacent valley side. The secondary species therefore represent the dominants in adjacent plant associations, with the exception of *Apocynum androsaemifolium*. It is unknown if this stand is a relict or if it is a relatively new introduction for the area. Vegetative cover for this stand totals approximately 50% and consists of approximately 5% for *Pinus ponderosa* trees, 25% for shrubs, including *Elaeagnus commutata* and *Ribes cereum*, and 20% for herbaceous species, particularly *Festuca arizonica*, *Bouteloua gracilis*, *Muhlenbergia montana*, *Grindelia subalpina*, *Galium boreale*, and *Allium cernuum*. The plot was diverse, e.g., 38 species were observed in a 400 m² plot. Volcanic outcrops are unusual for the monument, and the vegetation types supported are quite different than the more widespread associations occupying Pikes Peak granite exposures. Ground cover for this silverberry stand consists of approximately 55% bare soil, 40% litter, and 5% exposed volcanic rock and large boulders.

Only one stand of silverberry is extant in the monument, and is below the minimum mapping unit for the project. The aerial photo signature is light pink to white on CIR, because of the reflectance from exposed rocks. For true color aerial photography, the signature is light tan.

Global Vegetation: Not applicable.

Global Dynamics: Not applicable.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i> , <i>Ribes cereum</i>
Dwarf-shrub	<i>Artemisia frigida</i> , <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>
Graminoid	<i>Festuca arizonica</i>
Forb	<i>Grindelia subalpina</i> , <i>Galium boreale</i> , <i>Allium cernuum</i>

Global

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Shrub	<i>Elaeagnus commutata</i> , <i>Ribes cereum</i>
Dwarf-shrub	<i>Artemisia frigida</i> , <i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>

Graminoid	<i>Festuca arizonica, Bouteloua gracilis, Muhlenbergia montana</i>
Forb	<i>Grindelia subalpina, Galium boreale, Allium cernuum</i>

<u>Global Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM

<u>Global Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
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GLOBAL SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS:

GLOBAL STATUS AND CLASSIFICATION COMMENTS

Global Conservation Status Rank: Not applicable.

Global Classification Comments: Not applicable.

ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Range: Only one stand is present, south of Lower Twin Rock Road on a west-facing slope adjacent to a tributary to Grape Creek.

Global Range: Not applicable

Nations: US

States/Provinces:

ELEMENT SOURCES

Florissant Fossil Beds NM Inventory Notes: Plot 15

Classification Confidence: 3 **Identifier:**

REFERENCES: